

RESCUE STORY

It is a good practice to write out your personal story of how Jesus rescued (saved) you because it helps to put into words some of the important and compelling details so you can share it with yourself for assurance, and with someone else for their rescue. Our individual stories are some of the most powerful discipleship and evangelism tools because they are so personal to us and universal for everyone we know. The choice of the right words, the flow of your story, and knowing how to begin and end are all important. As you begin to work on this, ask the Lord for wisdom and insight into just how to share your story. The following worksheet is meant to guide you through this process.

Your story — regardless of how “spectacular” or “ordinary” you think it is — is a story about God’s character. It is your eyewitness account of how God rescued you from sin and death through Jesus, and changed your life as a result. Your story is compelling because Jesus showed up and rescued you doing for you what you could not do for yourself. Most people relate their own life to the normal.

Jesus is our hero and our story needs to spotlight this truth.

The following is a guide to putting your story together. Of course, you do not have to answer all the questions in each area, but use the questions as way of putting your story together. Use the space provided here to write down initial thoughts, stories, and instances that come to mind. After some further prayer and preparation take out a separate piece of paper and begin writing out your story. Our goal is for your story to be no more than **three minutes** when it is shared. Think of this as a very hard line. If you can keep it to 2:45 even better. You can count on several rewrites. After you have it where you want it give a copy of it me to look over and give any encouragements I can offer. It is always good to share this with someone else so that they can see weaknesses you may be blind to as this is a very personal project. Thank you for your willingness to do this.

We are using the same outline that the apostle Paul used as he stood before King Agrippa (Acts 26). He spoke simply, logically, and clearly about his life **before** his rescue, **how** Jesus rescued him, and what his life was like **after** this has happened.

BEFORE

- Simple introduction. What were some of your needs? What was missing or lacking? What were you doing that was not working? Family life. What mattered most to you? What did my life revolve around? Where did I find security, identity, and happiness? What were you thoughts about God/Bible? What about this stage of my life would be easy relatable for most non-Christians I know?

HOW

- When was the first time I heard the gospel? What were my initial reactions? What were the circumstances and/or relationships that caused you to consider Jesus? When did my perspective on Jesus start to change? How did you receive/respond to the gospel? Why was the gospel compelling?
- Highlight repentance and belief (trusting and turning).
- What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before I finally asked Jesus to save me?

AFTER

- What is different now? How is my life, attitude, and character being influenced today by the truth of the gospel? How do you find identity and purpose in your new relationship with Jesus? Highlight the new direction of your life in spite of the lack of perfection. How has Jesus met and/or exceeded your needs? State reason for assurance? It is important to keep it current.
- Close with a leading question. Bring it back to the listener. “Has anything like this ever happened to you?” “Have you had an encounter with Jesus like this?” “Would you like to?” “Has anyone ever cared enough to share with you how you can receive Christ as your Savior?” “Would you mind if I shared that with you?”

SIMPLE TIPS

- Pray and meditate on the goodness of God before you write.
- Make it conversational.
- Keep it a story. Don't make it a list of facts.
- Be joyful
- Don't exaggerate
- Simple use of a bible verse can be powerful
- Don't make past sins sound appealing.
- Don't criticize or blame others.
- Do not use unfamiliar "church terms".
- Don't talk about money or tell jokes.
- Avoid distracting topics. (politics, abortion., etc)
- Avoid misleading overstatements and quaint sayings. (Jesus is all you ever need. God solves all your problems. Let go and let God. My life has never been the same.)
- Can people see their need for Jesus in your story?
- Does your story make much of Jesus causing others to see His beauty?